

NRCS Wildlife Habitat Programs

Opportunities for Restoration and Conservation

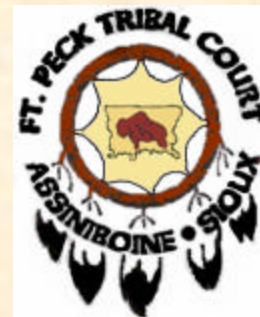
Presentation Focus

- Tools
 - Partnerships
 - Local working groups / Conservation Districts
 - Conservation programs = cost-sharing and easements
 - Incentives
- Future conservation program changes (?)
- In light of uncertainty: Strategies to initiate restoration and conservation practices.

Current Partners



Private Landowners



Environmental Quality Incentives Program



- Resource concerns are identified through a locally led process.
- Assist private landowners to implement new conservation measures on their land.
- Since 1997, EQIP has brought over 45 million dollars to Montana's private landowners to assist them with land conservation.



Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Wildlife habitat resource needs identified through a locally led process.

Cost-share payments to landowners under agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years.

\$440,000 allocated for FY 2007.



Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)



- Restore degraded wetland and native grassland complexes.
- Restoration:
 - 10-year cost-share agreements
- Restoration & Protection:
 - 30-year easements
 - Perpetual easements
 - Only descriptive grazing or haying allowed
 - Planning = 3-5 years!

Conservation Security Program



- Offered in selected watersheds based on priorities established by the State Technical Advisory Committee.
- Producers receive payments (1 to 10 years) for maintaining and enhancing natural resources.

“Reward The Best; Motivate The Rest”

Social, Economic & Environmental Benefits

NRCS Impact on Montana's Economy:

- IMPLAN computer program used to estimate economic benefit of conservation programs
- Spent \$48 million on conservation projects in Montana (2003).
 - Projected to generate additional \$87 million in economic activity.
 - Additional 800 jobs in Montana.
 - NRCS News Release: www.mt.nrcs.gov

CRP: Acreage Summary for 2008 - 2010

Contract Expirations - REX Offers Made

Date: 03-24-2006

County	Total Expiring	10-year offers		5-year offers	%	< 5-year offer	%
Blaine	75,685.9	12,644.2	17%	30,221.2	40%	32,820.5	43%
Daniels	114,298.5	53,684.5	47%	29,220.8	26%	31,393.2	27%
Hill	65,397.1	9,222.1	14%	23,809.8	36%	32,365.2	49%
MbCone	74,559.6	1,711.5	2%	8,294.7	11%	64,553.4	87%
Phillips	92,150.9	22,199.9	24%	30,563.9	33%	39,387.1	43%
Richland	39,345.4	19,702.8	50%	13,276.9	34%	6,365.7	16%
Roosevelt	73,185.6	29,177.0	40%	28,973.9	40%	15,034.7	21%
Sheridan	86,640.1	22,216.5	26%	36,334.7	42%	28,088.9	32%
Valley	101,261.5	34,576.5	34%	22,454.9	22%	44,230.1	44%
Total	722,524.6	205,135.0	28%	223,150.8	31%	294,238.8	41%

FSA Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

The Future

Currently involved with Partners to develop and promote EQIP Special Initiatives for:

1. Sage grouse → sagebrush-grassland habitats.
 - How?
2. Cows, not plows
 - Provide alternatives to producers who choose not to re-enroll or extend CRP contracts.



Few places on Earth offer the aesthetic, lifestyle, and economic values as do investments in the Montana landscape. Very few people ever find themselves in the position to truly make a contribution to the health of the land, the continuation of tradition, and the perpetuation of a culture.
Owning Eden (2005)



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

